

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A repeating device for relaying communication to a plurality of receiver-side telephones connected to a local area network;

said repeating device comprising a function, effected at a time of an incoming call to be connected, for requesting a response from that each receiver-side telephone unit of said plurality of receiver-side telephones then respond indicating their instantaneous operational capability ~~availability~~ to receive a the incoming call, a function for selecting, out of the plurality of receiver-side telephones that responded, a receiver side telephone unit to which the incoming call is to be connected, and a function for notifying the address of the selected receiver-side telephone unit to a caller-side telephone.

2. (Currently Amended) A repeating device according to claim 1, wherein said repeating device ~~further~~ comprises a function for receiving a transfer request from a user.

3. (Currently Amended) A telephone capable of generating a call to a plurality of receiver-side telephones ~~being connected to a local area network,~~ without designating the address of ~~the~~ a receiver-side telephone unit;

said telephone comprising a function, effected at a time of a call to be connected, for requesting a response from that each receiver-side telephone unit of said plurality of receiver-side telephones then respond indicating their instantaneous operational capability ~~availability~~ to receive a the call, a function for selecting, out of the plurality of receiver-side telephones that responded, a receiver-side telephone unit to which the call is to be connected, and a function for generating a the call addressed to said selected receiver-side telephone unit.

4. (Currently Amended) A telephone connected to a local area network;

said telephone comprising a function, ~~upon-effected at a time of receiving a call~~ transfer request from a user of a caller-side telephone, ~~a function for requesting a response from that each receiver-side telephone unit of a plurality of receiver-side telephones then respond~~ indicating their instantaneous operational capability ~~availability~~ to receive a call, a function for selecting, out of the plurality of receiver-side telephones that responded, a receiver-side telephone unit to which the call is to be connected, and a function for notifying the address of the selected receiver-side telephone unit to a caller-side telephone.

5. (Currently Amended) A recording medium capable of being read by a

~~computer machine~~ and storing a program to be executed by said machine, ~~computer, said recording medium used either for to cause the machine to effect one of a device for relaying communication to a plurality of receiver-side telephones being connected to a local area network, a telephone being connected to a local area network, or a telephone capable of generating a call to a plurality of receiver-~~

side telephones ~~being~~ connected to a local area network without having to specify the address of ~~the~~ a receiver-side telephone unit,

wherein said recording medium comprises programming to effect at least one ~~any~~ of the following sets of functions:

a function, effected at a time of an incoming call to be connected, for requesting ~~a response from that each receiver-side telephone unit of~~ said plurality of receiver-side telephones then respond indicating their availability instantaneous operational capability to receive ~~a~~ the incoming call, a function for selecting, out of the plurality of receiver-side telephones that responded, a receiver-side telephone unit to which the incoming call is to be connected, and a function for notifying the address of the selected receiver-side telephone unit to a caller-side telephone;

a function, effected at a time of a call to be connected, for requesting a ~~response from that each receiver-side telephone unit of~~ said plurality of receiver-side telephones then respond indicating their instantaneous operational capability ~~availability~~ to receive ~~a~~ the call, a function for selecting, out of the plurality of receiver-side telephones that responded, a receiver-side telephone unit to which the call is to be connected, and a function for generating ~~a~~ the call addressed to said selected receiver-side telephone unit; or

a function, ~~for requesting, upon~~ effected at a time of receiving a call transfer request from a user of a caller-side telephone, ~~a response from for requesting that each receiver-side telephone unit of~~ a plurality of receiver-side telephones then respond indicating their instantaneous operational capability ~~availability~~ to receive a call, a function for selecting, out of the plurality of receiver-side telephones that responded, a receiver-side telephone unit to which the call is to be connected, and a

function for notifying the address of the selected receiver-side telephone unit to a
caller-side telephone.